

REMARKS

The Office Action addresses claims 1-61. Claims 1-16, 18, 20-40, 42, 43 and 46-61 stand rejected. Claims 17, 19, 41, 44 and 45 are objected to, but would be considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. Further, rejected claims 20-37 are considered allowed if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 38, 39 and 46-61 are canceled and claims 2-37 and 40-45 are amended. In light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are courteously solicited.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the element "angular offset" found in claim 14 and on page 4, lines 18-19, are not deemed to be clear. Applicants respectfully draw the Examiner's attention to Figure 9, which shows the main cutting edge 28 of the insert 20 and a central, angled cutting-edge part 28'. See also Figure 10a. As is more evident in Figure 10a, cutting edges 28, 28' are not continuous, i.e., collinear and therefore they do not form or enclose an angle equal to 180°, but describe a slight angular offset. Nevertheless, claim 14 has been amended to clarify this relationship, and to conform to the language found in claim 13, from which claim 14 depends. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 8-11, 14, 16, 20-37 and 39-40 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 10 contain reference to a locating surface and to a bearing-surface side. Referring to the specification, and specifically to Figure 5b, the locating surface is indicated by the reference number 26. The bearing surface is indicated by reference numeral 48. Accordingly, the locating surface found in claim 2, which is remote from

the rake face 30, whereas the bearing-surface side refers to a position on the insert edge defining the travel of the apex line. Accordingly, these terms appear to clearly identify different objects. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 had set forth an "inclined deflecting chamfer" conflicting with the terms found in claims 8-11. By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been canceled, but claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the language of claim 1. Accordingly, the language in claims 8 and 9 has been amended to read "chamfer" and to depend from claim 17. Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 2, which also contains the term "chamfer". Accordingly, claims 10 and 11 have also been amended to overcome the rejection.

Claims 9, 11, 16, 20 and 39 are rejected for use of the term "preferably". Claims 9, 11, 16 and 20 have been amended to remove this terminology, and claim 39 is cancelled.

Claim 14 is rejected for use of the term "angular offset" and the term "relative to 180°". As discussed above, claim 14 has been amended to clarify this language. In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). According to the Office Action, the "rounded transition" of claim 5, the "angular offset" of claim 14, the "axial offset" of claims 15-16, and the "indentations" of claim 18 must be shown or the features canceled from the claims.

Referring to claim 5, the term "rounded transition" is not found; instead, the actual language "transition edge" has been amended to read "transition region". The Examiner's attention is drawn to the specification, page 13, lines 30-32, which refers to rake face 30 and rake face 30' with a dividing line 94 therebetween. Referring to Figures 10a-10b, the dividing line 94 between rake faces 30, 30' can be seen as rounded.

Claim 14 has been amended to remove the "angular offset" language, as discussed above.

Regarding claims 15-16, the Examiner's attention is directed to the specification, page 4, lines 23-32, which discusses the interchangeable inserts being offset axially. Referring to Figure 4a, an axial offset is perceptible between the illustrated inserts 20.

Claim 18 has been amended to read "...wherein one of the insert seat and the interchangeable insert have indentations for engaging one inside the other...". Referring to Figure 2, the insert seat 16 is generally concave in nature in several directions, constituting an indentation for receiving the insert 20, satisfying the drawing requirement for the language of claim 18. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 46 and 49 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese 59-161208. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 46-61 having been canceled, this rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208 in view of Nakamura et al U.S. Patent 5 829 927. This rejection is respectfully traversed. In light of the foregoing amendment, whereby claim 2 has been amended to include the patentable subject matter found in original dependent claim 17, the rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 47-48 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208. Claims 47 and 48 having been canceled, this rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208 in view of Nakamura et al '927 and Lindberg U.S. Patent 4 961 672. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 3-9, 12, 13 and 18 have been amended to depend from allowable

claim 17. Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 2, which is now believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208 in view of Nakamura '927 and Lindberg '672 and further in view of Kubota U.S. Patent No. 5 314 272. This rejection is respectfully traversed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 15 and 16 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 17. The rejection should therefore be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 38-40, 42 and 43 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208 in view of Lindberg '672. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 38 and 39 are canceled. Claims 40, 42 and 43 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 41. Accordingly the rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 50-57 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208 in view of Shallenberger U.S. Patent No. 5 092 718. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 50-57 having been canceled, the rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 50-55, 57 and 58 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208 in view of Kallio U.S. Patent No. 2 966 081. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 50-55, 57 and 58 having been canceled, the rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

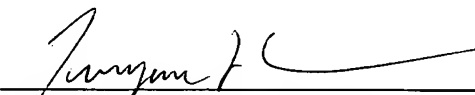
Claims 59-61 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208 in view of Bennett U.S. Patent No. 3 791 001. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 59-61 having been canceled, the rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese '208 in view of Nakamura '927 and Lindberg '672 and further in view of Brabetz et al. U.S. Patent No. 4 231 692. Claim 14 having been amended to depend indirectly from allowable claim 17, this rejection should be considered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-37 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Specifically, claim 20 contained the term "preferably", and claims 21-37 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 20. Claim 20 has been amended to remove the term, and should now be considered allowable. Claims 17, 19, 41 and 44-45 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 17, 19, 41 and 44 have been rewritten. Claim 45 depends from claim 44 and should be considered patentable therewith. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claim 17. The remaining claims have been amended to depend from claims deemed allowable.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims remaining in the application are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowability is courteously solicited. If necessary to further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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